some of the Institutes like Salem, Varanasi, Jodhpur etc., the students were put in the waiting list. However, they could not be admitted as all the seats got filled up in the Institutes concerned.

(d) At present, 4 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHT) at Varanasi, Salem, Guwahati and Jodhpur are functioning in the Central Sector and 2 Institutes namely, Shri Pragada Kotaiah Memorial Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Venkatagiri and Karnataka Handloom Technology Institute at Gadag are functioning in the State Sector. The details of the budget, courses etc. are as follows:

(i) Budget Estimate for the year 2004-05 of 6 Institutes: Rs. 5.55crore

(ii) Course conducted: (i) 3 years Diploma Course in Handloom Technology in all IIHT.

(ii) I1/2 years Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry in IIHT, Salem and Varanasi.

(iii) Number of students: Number of seats for Diploma Course in Handloom Technology in 6 Institutes are 305 and against this, the number of students admitted during the year 2004-05 are 300.

(iv) Performance : These Institutes are providing technically qualified professionals for meeting the requirements of the Textile Sector, including Handloom Sector.

Assessment of the apparel parks

1694. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to establish some new apparel parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government have assessed the successful working of the already established apparel parks in the country;

(d) if so,the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (e) Government had invited project proposals from all State Governments/ Union Territories for consideration under the 'Apparel Parks for Exports' Scheme. Since the inception of Scheme in March, 2002, twelve Project Proposals have been sanctioned for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City and Kanpur (U.P.). Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvanahthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalor (Karnataka), Tirupurand Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), SEZ, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Mahal, Jaipur, (Rajasthan) and Butibori-Nagpur (Maharashtra). Netaji Apparel Park at Tirupur has become operational and the other sanctioned Apparel Park projects are at different stages of implementation.

In view of the experience gained during the last three years of the operation of 'Apparel Parks for Exports' schemes, Government has undertaken a mid-course review of the Scheme with the basic objective of bringing in urgency in implementation of the Scheme. Extensive discussions have been held in the Inter-Ministerial meetings with the stakeholders/State Governments, wherein it was proposed to effect modifications in the Scheme to bring in proper targeting, aggressive marketing, involvement of private sector and to increase the level of assistance under the Scheme.

Clandestine imports of Chinese raw silk

1695. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched futures trading in cocoon and raw silk at the National Commodity and Derivative Exchanges to enable the actual users to cover price fluctuations;

(b) whether this move will solely benefit the buyer/end-users of cocoon and raw silk to the detriment of producers/sellers who are small marginal farmers; and

(c) what are reasons of addressing in the basic issue of clandestine imports of Chinese raw silk resulting in destablization of domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Futures trading in.raw silk and cocoons has been launched by Central Silk Board (CSB) at the platform of National Commodity